

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 190558 TOSEC 080308
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05
SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 ERDA-07 ACDA-10
NRC-07 USIE-00 ISO-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
S/S-O - S GOLDSMITH

-----106906 112315Z /14

O 112241Z AUG 77 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCER
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, ALEXANDRIA FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 11

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 11, 1977. FYI
ONLY SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THERE WAS A REPORT LATE YESTERDAY
THAT A PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL GAVE A LETTER TO
AMBASSADOR EILTS, IN CAIRO, THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
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ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY VANCE, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I THINK THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS REPORTED, YES.

Q. IS THAT TRUE? IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

A. NO. THAT'S NOT TRUE AND NOTHING OF THE SORT OF ANY
KIND LIKE THAT HAPPENED. A DENIAL HAS BEEN ISSUED, I
THINK, THROUGH THE EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV, A DENIAL BY THE
PARTY. BUT I WILL REPEAT THAT DENIAL HERE. THERE
WAS NO EVENT LIKE THE ONE YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT.

Q. RATHER THAN NOT GET HUNG UP ON LOCATION, COULD THE
PALESTINIAN ANSWER HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ANOTHER AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO.

Q. COULD IT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN
THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO OTHER THAN THE AMBASSADOR?

A. NO.

Q. YOU WOULD SAY THAT NO AMERICAN OFFICIAL NOWHERE HAS
RECEIVED A LETTER FROM --

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. GOING BACK TO THE MID-EAST, HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE VANCE TRIP SO FAR? DO YOU SEE ANY SUCCESSES IN IT?

A. I'M NOT ASSESSING IT FROM HERE. AS I'VE SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES, WHILE THE TRIP IS UNDER WAY ALL THE ASSESSMENT IS GOING TO COME FROM OUT THERE, AND I THINK THE SECRETARY IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, WHICH I THINK HAS BEEN AMPLY REPORTED -- ALTHOUGH WE DON'T HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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A TEXT FOR YOU YET -- MAKES CLEAR WHAT HE FEELS ABOUT IT, AND I HAVE NOTHING THAT I CAN ADD TO THAT, IN ANY CASE.

Q. ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, WHEN IS HE EXPECTED BACK NOW?

A. THE SECRETARY IS EXPECTED BACK SOMETIME LATE SATURDAY. I THINK SOMETIME IN THE EVENING.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THAT HE'LL HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK?

A. I DON'T KNOW. IT'S POSSIBLE.

Q. IS HE EXPECTED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT ON SUNDAY?

A. I WOULD EXPECT THAT HE'LL SEE THE PRESIDENT QUITE EARLY AFTER HE GETS BACK--VERY LIKELY SUNDAY, BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE THERE ON THE U.S. IRANIAN TALKS BEYOND THE BRIEF STATEMENT THAT WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY BY ERDA?

A. YES.

Q. NOTHING EMERGED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A. I DO HAVE SOMETHING SUBSTANTIVE HERE. THIS IS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT STATEMENT THAN THE ONE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, WHICH I WILL READ TO YOU BUT I CAN ALSO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO YOU AFTERWARDS. LET ME GET IT INTO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECORD. THIS IS A STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF THOSE TALKS YESTERDAY:

"THE ENERGY COMMITTEE OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

MET IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 8 TO 10 UNDER THE JOINT CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN, AND MR. ROBERT FRI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. THE TWO SIDES CONDUCTED A BROAD REVIEW OF A VARIETY OF ENERGY MATTERS, INCLUDING SOLAR ENERGY, FOSSIL FUELS, AND NUCLEAR POWER. BOTH SIDES IDENTIFIED NUMEROUS PROMISING AND IMPORTANT POSSIBILITIES FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION IN THESE FIELDS AND AGREED THAT VARIOUS SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

"IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE REGARDING THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR INTEREST IN CONCLUDING SUCH AN AGREEMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS PENDING THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS NOW BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS.

"DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, DR. ETEMAD CALLED ON SECRETARY OF ENERGY SCHLESINGER FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS."

Q. WHAT IS MORE SUBSTANTIVE IN THAT THAT WAS ISSUED BY ERDA YESTERDAY?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T GOT THE ORIGINAL UP HERE, SO I DON'T KNOW.

Q. THAT'S PRECISELY THE STATEMENT THEY PUT OUT, WHAT I'M ASKING IS: DID THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION? THE STATEMENT YOU HAVE READ SAYS THAT THE AGREEMENT CANNOT BE CONCLUDED BECAUSE OF OUTSTANDING LEGISLATION.

A. I CAN'T TAKE YOU BEYOND THAT. ALL I'VE GOT IS WHAT THIS SAYS. BUT LET ME TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. IF I COULD GO ALONG ON THAT -- GOING BACK TO THE PLO -- IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A LETTER FROM THE PLO WAS DELIVERED TO AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL NOT BY THE PLO BUT BY SOME INTERMEDIARY?

A. WELL, IN ANSWER TO THAT, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS -- AND I'M NOT SPEAKING TO THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A LETTER NOW; I'M JUST SAYING I'M GOING TO RECALL FOR YOU THAT WE HAVE SAID -- THE SECRETARY SAID I THINK JUST BEFORE HE LEFT HERE -- THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH

INDIRECTLY THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES IN THE WAY OF EXCHANGING OR GETTING INFORMATION OR AN ANSWER. BUT IN SAYING THAT, IN RECALLING THAT, I'M NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLYING THAT THERE IS SUCH A MESSAGE OR SUCH A LETTER.

Q. ARE YOU SUGGESTING THOUGH THAT IN THE PAST WE'VE RECEIVED WRITTEN DOCUMENTS FROM THE PLO?

A. NO. I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT. I THINK THE SECRETARY WAS REFERRING TO, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONTACTS HE'S SINCE HAD WITH ARAB LEADERS IN SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF THE PLO VIEWS.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT BRIEFING TODAY.
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Q. DID THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION?

A. THERE WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE. THESE ARE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS AND WE ARE NOT NOW PREPARED TO GET INTO DETAILS. THE NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE CONGRESS WILL INFLUENCE THE TERMS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED. AS THE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (AUGUST 11) THE TWO SIDES WILL CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS PENDING ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 251
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, ENRG, TECH, PFOR, US, XF, IR, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
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